

## Message Text

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54

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 SSO-00

A-01 PER-03 /023 W

----- 060600

O R 312300Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 877

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 365

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W ARRESTS, POSSIBLE PRISON HUNGER STRIKE

REF: MAZATLAN'S 0364

1. CONSUL VISITED MAZATLAN PRISON AUGUST 31 TO GET NEW READING ON HUNGER STRIKE.

2. MAZATLAN PRISON IS DIVIDED IN TWO SECTIONS, "GRANDE" AND "CORRECCIONALES". TOTAL OF FORTY EIGHT AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE DIVIDED EQUALLY. EACH SECTION IS SEPARATED BY A PRISON WALL, AND PRISONERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO MINGLE WITH ONE ANOTHER. CONVERSATIONS ARE LIMITED TO CHANCE MEETINGS IN ADMINISTRATIVE OR VISITING AREAS.

3. SEVERAL PRISONERS FROM EACH AREA INTERVIEWED TODAY. SPOKESMAN FOR "CORRECCIONALES" STATED THAT THEY PLAN TO GO THROUGH WITH HUNGER STRIKE AS PREVIOUSLY STATED AND REPORTED IN MAZATLAN'S 0353. CONSUL NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT STATEMENT THAT HUNGER STRIKE WAS STILL ON WAS SAID WITH MUCH LESS CONVICTION THAN PREVIOUSLY. CONSUL POINTED OUT PITFALLS INVOLVED AND LEFT PRISONERS WITH THOUGHT THAT THEY SHOULD CONSIDER ALL ANGLES PRIOR TO TOTAL COMMITMENT. CONSUL STRESSED THAT COMMUNICATION EXHORTING PRISONERS TO HUNGER STRIKE WAS UNSIGNED. APPARENTLY WRITER DID NOT HAVE COURAGE HIS OWN CONVICTIONS THAT STRIKE WOULD FORCE DESIRED

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ACTION. CONSUL STRESSED FURTHER, THAT CONSIDERABLE HARM TO

THE CAUSE AND TO HEALTH MIGHT RESULT.

3. SPOKESMAN FOR "GRANDE" FORCEFULLY STATED PRISONERS IN HIS AREA WERE NOT PARTICIPATING AND THAT HE CONSIDERED THE WHOLE IDEA FOOLHARDY.

4. LA PAZ: CONSUL, IN AUGUST 31 CONVERSATION WITH DIRECTOR PREVENTION SOCIAL IN B.C.S, WAS ASKED IF SHE KNEW OF IMPENDING STRIKE. DIRECTOR NOTED THAT STRIKE WOULD BE OF NO AVAIL, AS IT WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON JURIDICAL PROCESS OF PRISONERS. HE REQUESTED CONSUL TO VISIT LA PAZ ASAP.

5. CONSUL WILL TRY KEEP CLOSE WATCH STRIKE CONDITIONS BUT WILL BE HAMPERED SOMEWHAT BECAUSE SHE IS ONLY OFFICER WORKING THIS POST AT PRESENT. TWO OFFICER POSITIONS REMAIN UNFILLED.  
MATTHEWS

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